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09/992,567	11/14/2001	James H. Boyden	4000.2.92	5255

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EXAMINER

RAMAKRISHNAIAH, MELUR

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2643

DATE MAILED: 09/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/992,567

Applicant(s)

BOYDEN ET AL.

Examiner

Melur Ramakrishnaiah

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9-13-2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 6-8, 19-20, are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by Kakii (US PAT: 5,815,197).

Regarding claim 1, Kakii discloses an apparatus for obtaining a video signal from a position proximate an eye level of a person viewing display, the apparatus comprising: a flexible coupling (reads on 101, fig. 3) having a camera portion removably secured to display (8, figs. 2-4) to position the camera portion alongside a screen portion of the display, a camera (5, figs. 2, 4) and a camera attachment to attach camera to the camera portion as shown in figs. 3-4 such that the camera is positioned between the screen portion and the person (col. 13, line 45 – col. 15, line 37).

Regarding claim 19, Kakii discloses an apparatus for obtaining a video signal from a position proximate an eye level of a person viewing a display, the apparatus comprising: a base (6, fig. 2, 61, fig. 4) resting on the display over a screen portion of the display (8, figs. 2, 4), a flexible line (10, fig. 2, 110, fig. 4) suspended from the base, the flexible line having a camera position disposed along side the screen (8, figs. 2, 4) and a fixation portion attached to the base (figs. 2, 4), and a camera attached to the camera portion such that camera is suspended from the flexible line and positioned between the screen portion and the person (col. 13, line 45 – col. 15, line 37).

Regarding claims 6-8, 20, Kakii further teaches the following: flexible coupling comprises a flexible line, wherein fixation portion is disposed proximate to a top side of the display (8, figs. 2, 4) such that flexible line hangs downward along the screen portion, a base (61, fig. 4) resting on the top side to grip the fixation portion, the base retractably grips the fixation portion such that base is capable of retracting the camera into a retracted portion in which camera is not disposed alongside the screen portion, the base (6, figs. 2, 4) rests on top side of the display in an unsecured manner (figs. 2, 4, col. 13, line 45 – col. 15, line 37).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kakii in view of Takeo et al. (JP 07-131697, hereinafter Takeo).

Regarding claims 2, Kakii does not teach the following: flexible coupling comprises a flexible loop having a length sufficient to encircle the display.

Kakii differs from claim 2 in that although he teaches different ideas of camera attachment to attach camera to the camera portion such that camera is positioned between the screen portion and the person as shown in figs 2-7, he does not explicitly teach the following: flexible coupling comprises a flexible loop having a length to encircle the display.

However, Takeo discloses a holder bond which teaches the following: flexible coupling comprises a flexible loop having a length to encircle the user head (figs. 1-5, see abstract, paragraphs: 5-20).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time invention was made to modify Kakii's system to provide for the following: flexible coupling comprises a flexible loop having a length to encircle the display as this arrangement would provide one of the methods for positioning the camera between the display screen and the user among many methods available for positing the camera as demonstrated by Kakii

5. Claims 3-5, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kakii in view of Takeo as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Boyer et al. (US PAT: 5,713,548, hereinafter Boyer).

Regarding claims 3-5, the combination does not teach the following: flexible loop exerts inward pressure against the display such that fixation portion frictionally engages the display, flexible loop is elastic, the flexible loop having an unstretched configuration in which length is insufficient to encircle the display, and a stretched configuration in which length is sufficient to encircle the display, an adjustment mechanism that selectively tightens the flexible loop around the display.

However, Boyer discloses system for enclosing a computer or other article on the human body which teaches the following: flexible loop exerts inward pressure against the body such that fixation portion frictionally engages the body, flexible loop is elastic, the flexible loop having an unstretched configuration in which length is insufficient to

encircle the body, and a stretched configuration in which length is sufficient to encircle the body, an adjustment mechanism that selectively tightens the flexible loop around the body (col. 3 lines 34-59).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time invention was made to modify the combination to provide for the following: flexible loop exerts inward pressure against the display such that fixation portion frictionally engages the display, flexible loop is elastic, the flexible loop having an unstretched configuration in which length is insufficient to encircle the display, and a stretched configuration in which length is sufficient to encircle the display, an adjustment mechanism that selectively tightens the flexible loop around the display as this arrangement would provide one of the methods for positioning the camera between the display screen and the user among many methods available for positing the camera as demonstrated by Kakii

6. Claims 21-22, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kakii view of Ganthier et al (US PAT: 6,081, 422, hereinafter Ganthier).

Regarding claims 21-22, Kakii does not teach the following: display attachment that attaches the base to the top side of the display, attachment comprises a hook and loop fastening system with a first portion affixed to the top side and a second portion affixed to the base. However, Ganthier discloses universal mount for computer peripheral device which teaches the following: display attachment that attaches the base to the top side of the display, attachment comprises a hook and loop fastening

system with a first portion affixed to the top side and a second portion affixed to the base (fig. 9 col. 6 lines 22-39).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time invention was made to modify Kakii's system to provide for the following: display attachment that attaches the base to the top side of the display, attachment comprises a hook and loop fastening system with a first portion affixed to the top side and a second portion affixed to the base as this arrangement would provide another means for securing the base for camera on a display as taught by Ganthier, thus contributing to variety of choices for the user to attach the camera equipment to display.

7. Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kakii in view of Ganthier as applied to claim 21 above, and further in view of Marks, Jr. (US PAT: 4,863,130, hereinafter Marks).

Regarding claim 23, the combination does not teach the following: display attachment comprises a suction cup disposed on the underside of the base to selectively engage the topside.

However, Marks discloses adjustable device for mounting an electronic imaging camera to a surface by a vacuum which teaches the following: display attachment comprises a suction cup disposed on the underside of the base to selectively engage the topside (col. 3, line 28 – col. 4, line 60).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time invention was made to modify the combination to provide for the following: display attachment comprises a suction cup disposed on the underside of the base to

selectively engage the topside as this arrangement would provide another method of attaching base of the device to the surface to support as taught by Marks, thus contributing to variety of choices for the user to attach the camera equipment to display.

8. Claims 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kakii in view of Tsai (US PAT: 5,519,597).

Regarding claims 24-25, Kakii does not teach the following: base comprises a retractor that selectively exerts tension on the fixation portion to retract the camers into a retracted position in which the camera is not disposed along side the screen portion, retraction comprises a pulley around which the fixation portion is disposed, wherein the pulley is rotatable to draw the camera into the retracted position.

However, Tsai discloses elevation mechanism for lamp device which teaches the following: base comprises a retractor that selectively exerts tension on the fixation portion to retract the lamp device into a retracted position in which the device is not disposed along side of the working area, retraction comprises a pulley around which the fixation portion is disposed, wherein the pulley is rotatable to draw the lamp device into the retracted position.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time invention was made to modify Kakii's system to provide for the following: base comprises a retractor that selectively exerts tension on the fixation portion to retract the camers into a retracted position in which the camera is not disposed along side the screen portion, retraction comprises a pulley around which the fixation portion is



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disposed, wherein the pulley is rotatable to draw the camera into the retracted position as this arrangement would provide means to retract the device so that it does not cause interference with other activities, thus giving the user means to move the things away from user activities.

9. Claims 26, 31-33, 34, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takashi (JP 2000-214517).

Regarding claim 26, Takashi discloses a method for obtaining a video signal from a position proximate an eye level of a person viewing display, the apparatus, comprising: providing a flexible coupling (52C, Drawing 6) having a camera portion 50 (Drawings: 4-7) and a fixation portion, providing camera, attaching the camera to the camera portion with camera attachment (52A, Drawings: 4-7), and securing the fixation portion to the display such that camera portion is suspended along side a screen portion of the display (Drawings: 4-5), between the screen portion and the person (Drawings: 4-5, paragraphs: 0063 –0070).

Regarding claim 34, Takashi discloses an apparatus for obtaining a video signal from a position proximate an eye level of a person viewing a display, the apparatus comprising: a flexible coupling means (52C, Drawing 6) having a camera portion (50, Drawings: 4-7) and a fixation portion removably secured to the display to position the camera portion along side a screen portion of the display (16, Drawings 4-5), a camera (50, Drawings: 4-7), and an attachment means (52A, Drawings: 4-7) to attach the camera portion such that the camera is positioned between the screen portion and the person (Drawing: 5, paragraphs: 0063 –0070).

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Regarding claims 31-33, Takashi further teaches the following: providing a flexible coupling comprises providing a flexible line, and wherein securing the fixation portion to the display comprises disposing the fixation portion proximate a top side of a display such that the flexible line hangs downward along the screen portion, providing a base (52, Drawings 4-7), and disposing the base to rest on top side to grip the fixation portion, base retractably grips the fixation portion such that base is capable of retracting the camera into a retracted position (Drawing 6) in which camera is not disposed alongside the screen portion (Drawing 6, paragraphs: 0063 -0070).

10. Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takashi in view of Takeo et al. (JP 07-131697, hereinafter Takeo).

Regarding claims 27, Takashi does not teach the following: flexible coupling comprises a flexible loop having a length sufficient to encircle the display.

Takashi differs from claim 27 in that although he teaches different ideas of camera attachment to attach camera to the camera portion such that camera is positioned between the screen portion and the person (Paragraphs: 0067-0068), he does not explicitly teach the following: flexible coupling comprises a flexible loop having a length to encircle the display.

However, Takeo discloses a holder band which teaches the following: flexible coupling comprises a flexible loop having a length to encircle the user head (figs. 1-5, see abstract, paragraphs: 5-20).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time invention was made to modify Takashi's system to provide for the following: flexible

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coupling comprises a flexible loop having a length to encircle the display as this arrangement would provide one of the methods for positioning the camera between the display screen and the user among many methods available for positing the camera as demonstrated by Takashi.

11. Claims 28-30, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takashi in view of Takeo as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Boyer et al. (US PAT: 5,713,548, hereinafter Boyer).

Regarding claims 28-30, the combination does not teach the following: flexible loop exerts inward pressure against the display such that fixation portion frictionally engages the display, flexible loop is elastic, the flexible loop having an unstretched configuration in which length is insufficient to encircle the display, and a stretched configuration in which length is sufficient to encircle the display, an adjustment mechanism that selectively tightens the flexible loop around the display.

However, Boyer discloses system for enclosing a computer or other article on the human body which teaches the following: flexible loop exerts inward pressure against the body such that fixation portion frictionally engages the body, flexible loop is elastic, the flexible loop having an unstretched configuration in which length is insufficient to encircle the body, and a stretched configuration in which length is sufficient to encircle the body, an adjustment mechanism that selectively tightens the flexible loop around the body (col. 3 lines 34-59).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time invention was made to modify the combination to provide for the following: flexible loop

exerts inward pressure against the display such that fixation portion frictionally engages the display, flexible loop is elastic, the flexible loop having an unstretched configuration in which length is insufficient to encircle the display, and a stretched configuration in which length is sufficient to encircle the display, an adjustment mechanism that selectively tightens the flexible loop around the display as this arrangement would provide one of the methods for positioning the camera between the display screen and the user among many methods available for positing the camera as demonstrated by Takeo.

12. Claims 9-11, 13, 16-17, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takashi in view of Takeo.

Regarding claim 9, Takashi discloses an apparatus for obtaining a video signal from a position proximate an eye level of a person viewing the display, the apparatus comprising: a camera (50, Drawings: 4-7), and a camera attachment (52A, Drawings: 4-7) that attaches the camera to the camera portion such that the camera is positioned between the screen portion and the persons (Drawing 5, paragraphs: 0063-0070).

Takashi differs from claim 9 in that although he teaches different ideas of camera attachment to attach camera to the camera portion such that camera is positioned between the screen portion and the person (Paragraphs: 0067-0068), he does not explicitly teach the following: flexible coupling comprises a flexible loop having a length to encircle the display.

However, Takeo discloses a holder bond which teaches the following: flexible coupling comprises a flexible loop having a length to encircle the user head (figs. 1-5, see abstract, paragraphs: 5-20).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time invention was made to modify Takashi's system to provide for the following: flexible coupling comprises a flexible loop having a length to encircle the display as this arrangement would provide one of the methods for positioning the camera between the display screen and the user among many methods available for positing the camera as demonstrated by Takashi.

Regarding claims 10-11, Takashi does not teach the following: flexible loop comprises an elastic band sized to grip the display such that the fixation portion abuts back side of the display, a strap, and an adjustment mechanism that engages the strap around the display.

However, Takeo teaches the following: flexible loop comprises an elastic band sized to grip the body (fig. 5) such that the fixation portion abuts back side of the body, a strap, and an adjustment mechanism that engages the strap around the body (paragraphs: 0005-0020).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time invention was made to modify Takashi's system to provide for the following: flexible loop comprises an elastic band sized to grip the display such that the fixation portion abuts back side of the display, a strap, and an adjustment mechanism that engages the strap around the display as this arrangement would provide one of the methods for

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positioning the camera between the display screen and the user among many methods available for positing the camera as demonstrated by Takashi.

Regarding claims 13, 16,17, Takashi teaches the following: camera attachment permits rapid, manual removal of the camera from the camera position (Drawing 6), camera attachment comprises an adhesive disposed between a back side of camera and camera portion to permanently affix the camera to the camera portion (paragraph: 0070), display attachment that attaches the fixation portion to the display (Drawing 4).

13. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takashi in view of Takeo as applied to claim 9 above, and further in view of Kakii.

The combination differs from claim 12 in that it teaches flexible loop (See Takeo figs), it does not teach it is transparent.

However, Kakii teaches the following: the camera support mechanism of the image pickup apparatus is preferably formed of an inexpensive transparent material (col. 14 lines 40-46).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time invention was made to modify the combination to provide for the following: portion of the flexible loop is transparent as this arrangement would prevent the camera support system obstructing the view of the image displayed on the monitor as taught by Kakii, thus facilitating the user to see the image displayed clearly.

14. Claims 14 and 18, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takashi in view of Takeo as applied to claim 9 above, and further in view of Boyer.

Regarding claims 14 and 18, the combination does not teach the following: camera attachment comprises a hook and loop fastening system with a first portion affixed to a back side of the camera and a second portion affixed to a the camera portion, display attachment comprises a hook and loop fastening system with a first portion attached to the display and a second portion attached to a fixation portion.

However, Boyer teaches the following: device detachment comprises a hook and loop fastening system with a first portion affixed to a back side of the device and a second portion affixed to a the device portion, device attachment comprises a hook and loop fastening system with a first portion attached to the device and a second portion attached to a fixation portion (col. 3 lines 34-59).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time invention was made to modify the combination to provide for the following: camera attachment comprises a hook and loop fastening system with a first portion affixed to a back side of the camera and a second portion affixed to a the camera portion, display attachment comprises a hook and loop fastening system with a first portion attached to the display and a second portion attached to a fixation portion as this arrangement would provide one of the methods for positioning the camera between the display screen and the user among many methods available for positing the camera as demonstrated by Takashi.

15. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takashi in view of Takeo as applied to claim 9 above, and further in view of Krekelberg (US PAT: 5,855,343).

Regarding claim 15, the combination does not teach the following: camera attachment comprises a clip disposed on the back side of the camera to selectively engage the camera portion.

However, Krekelberg discloses camera clip which teaches the following: camera attachment comprises a clip disposed on the back side of the camera to selectively engage the camera portion (col. 4, line 5 – col. 5, line 54).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time invention was made to modify the combination to provide for the following: camera attachment comprises a clip disposed on the back side of the camera to selectively engage the camera portion as this arrangement would provide another method to attach the camera to the support system as taught by Krekelberg, thus providing choices for the user.

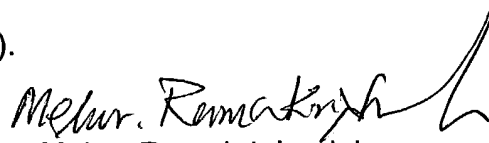
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melur Ramakrishnaiah whose telephone number is (703) 305-1461. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30-4:00; every other F Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz can be reached on (703)305-4708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.



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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Melur Ramakrishnaiah  
Primary Examiner  
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